



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7670 | FAX (517) 373.5958

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Contact: Scott Ray  
517-373-7670

## **House passes landfill inspections bill**

**Lansing** – The Michigan House of Representatives Thursday passed legislation to authorize a statewide landfill inspection program. The bill is part of a package of bills dealing with solid-waste disposal that passed the Senate in October 2003.

Senate Bill 499, sponsored by Sen. Alan Sanborn (R-Richmond Twp), authorizes the state Department of Environmental Quality to establish a statewide inspection program, mandating at least four inspections per year of each landfill to ensure compliance. Random inspections also would be conducted.

“Michigan residents are deeply concerned about the flow of garbage coming into our landfills from places with less-stringent environmental controls,” Sanborn said. “As I have said in the past, members of the Michigan Legislature will do all we can to seek ways to carry out our constitutionally mandated roles as stewards of this state’s precious natural resources.”

The bill is part of a 14-bill bi-partisan package that provides a comprehensive revision of the state’s solid-waste management program to provide additional protection from the disposal of inappropriate waste in Michigan’s landfills. Other key provisions in the package include:

- A requirement that landfills refuse waste, regardless of its source, that did not meet Michigan’s stringent waste standards;
- Two important new landfill bans – beverage containers and whole tires – to further reduce reliance on landfills and encourage recycling;

(More)

- Provisions granting the DEQ director emergency power to prohibit any waste shipment that poses a threat to the public's health or safety or to the safety of the environment;
- New fines of up to \$25,000 per day for violating certain laws related to disposing of waste in landfills;
- A 2-year moratorium on issuing certain new landfill permits; and
- Two resolutions that urge Congress to act to allow states to control the flow and deposit of out-of-state waste;

SB 499 was returned to the Senate for concurrence.

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